



Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on 11 November 2025 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham at 7.30pm.

Members Present: Councillors Z Gover (Mayor), K Critchley (Deputy Mayor), D Budd, D Cleaton, M Cotton, A Dallimore, I Davey, B Dean, S Dean, V Green, M Hill, L Kirk, and D Robinson.

Officers present: S Dickins, Deputy Town Clerk, K Babbs, Administration Officer

TC 119/25-26 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr M Tighe, Cllr R Holloway and Cllr S Wheatley.

TC 120/25-26 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 121/25-26 Public participation time

There were three members of the public present, one of whom wished to speak in relation to the Community Speed Watch Team. The group is in need of more volunteers and locations suggestions, to be able to carry out speed surveys for Dorset Police. A second resident requested an update on the proposed new facilities at Hauses Field.

TC 122/25-26 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

It was **RESOLVED** the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 28 October 2025 be **APPROVED** and were signed by the Mayor.

TC 123/25-26 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

Cllr Budd enquired whether the documents verbally requested by a member of public at the previous meeting's public participation section had been sent and whether there was a procedure in place for how Council responds to residents who address Council under public participation. The Deputy Clerk noted that the requested documentation, if held, would be sent to the resident requesting it, but that any request for documentation from the Council such as this should be made in writing to the Council.

TC 124/25-26 Reports by Dorset Councillors and representatives on outside bodies

Cllr Critchley noted his concern at the progress of the asset transfer for the former Middle School Playing field and that there appeared to be a disconnect between the approach towards the transfer of assets of officers within Dorset Council and elected members of Dorset Council respectively. Cllr Critchley proposed that the Town Council write to Cllr Richard Biggs, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Property & Assets, Economic Growth & Levelling Up, to reaffirm the Town Council's position in relation to the asset transfer of former Middle School Playing field.

It was **RESOLVED** that a letter be sent to Cllr Richard Biggs, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Property & Assets, Economic Growth & Levelling Up, to reaffirm the Town Council's position in relation to the asset transfer of former Middle School Playing field.

The report from Cllr Ryan Holloway was NOTED.

TC 125/25-26 Payments for outstanding creditors

Council considered the list of payments for approval.

It was **RESOLVED** that payments in the sum of £41,676.10 be approved.

TC 126/25-26 To receive such communications as the Town Mayor may wish to place before the Council

There were no communications placed before Council.

TC 127/25-26 Reports from committees and sub-groups

The minutes from the following meetings were NOTED:

- a) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – 09/10/2025
- b) Planning and Transport Committee – 14/10/2025
- c) Policy, Resources and Finance – 09/09/2025

TC 128/25-26 December Saturday Parking

Councillors considered the December dates in which Howards Lane parking charges might be suspended to allow free Christmas parking.

It was **RESOLVED** that the parking charges be suspended in Howards Lane Car Park on Saturday 6 December 2025 in support of Small Business Saturday.

TC 129/25-26 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Terms of Reference

Councillors considered the proposed amendment to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Terms of Reference.

It was **RESOLVED** to agree and adopt the amendment to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Terms of Reference.

TC 130/25-26 Ride on Mower Expenditure Approval

Councillors considered the recommendation from the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee for the purchase of a ride on mower.

Cllr Dallimore enquired whether the purchase of any additional scarification had been considered to preserve the long-term health of the pitch. The Deputy Town Clerk noted that equipment such as this could be purchased and mounted to the mower at a future point in time if Council wished for it and further highlighted that a flail cutting deck would also be mountable to the mower at a future point which could also scarify playing fields.

It was **RESOLVED** that to purchase an FD 13.09 Stage5 4WD (Grillo) machine with 61-inch rotary cutting deck at £27,750 excluding VAT from Hunt Forrest, with the expenditure being taken from the "Ride on Mower" earmarked reserve.

TC 131/25-26 2025/26 Local Organisation Grant Awards

Councillors considered the recommendations from the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee in respect to local organisation grant awards, which were as follows:

£1,000 granted to the Father Christmas Parade
£1,000 granted to the Christmas Lights Committee
£1,000 granted to the Wareham Carnival Committee
£500 granted to Sustainable Wareham
£1,000 granted to Wareham Area Men's Shed
£500 granted to Wareham Town Band

£400 granted to Wareham Disabled Club
£750 granted to Wareham & District Swimming Club
£1,000 granted to Prime-Time Kids Club
£250 granted to Wareham Community Growers
£260 granted to Wareham Choral Society
£1,000 granted to Purbeck Youth and Community Foundation

It was **RESOLVED** that the recommendation in respect of the Local Organisation Grants from the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee be APPROVED awarding the grants using the Grants budget of £8,000 and the remaining £660 to be taken from “Council – Purbeck Youth Centre” to fulfil the £1000 grant amount to the Purbeck Youth and Community Foundation.

TC 132/25-26 Town Council Action List

Cllr Critchley enquired whether there had been progress in respect to the fencing requiring repair at Carey Hall, and whether there was a time period after which the Housing Association would be required to remedy the fences. The Deputy Town Clerk noted that the Town Council was in contact with the appropriate officer within the Housing association to resolve the matter and would continue to liaise with them until the matter had been resolved.

The Town Council Action List was NOTED.

TC 133/25-26 Report of the Museum Co-ordinator

The Museum Co-ordinator’s report was NOTED.

TC 134/25-26 Town Clerk’s Update

The Town Clerk’s update was NOTED.

TC 135/25-26 Any other items the Mayor deems urgent

There were no other items deemed urgent.

TC 136/25-26 Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Town Council was scheduled to be held on Tuesday 16 December 2025 at 7:30pm.

TC 137/25-26 To Resolve to exclude members of the press and public

It was **RESOLVED** that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the nature of the business to be transacted.

TC 138/25-26 Volunteer of the Year Award Recommendation

Councillors considered the recommendation from the Volunteer of the Year Award Panel.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Volunteer of the Year Award Panel’s recommendation be ratified.

Mayor..... Date.....